

hunting (mean response = 5.4), and difficulty obtaining access to private land (mean response = 5.2). The least threatening issues are predators (mean response = 2.4) and difficulty obtaining licenses (mean response = 2.2).

As heard in the focus groups:

My fear is for the young people, they are very vulnerable to what people say. The DNR comes out with that scare tactic. The young girls that are getting married, they absolutely won't eat deer. They tell their husbands to go out and have a good time but don't bring a deer back. Now, their kids are going to follow the same, too. What is going to happen if this keeps going 20 years from now? Who's going to shoot these deer off? I'm afraid that hunting as it was...the antis are pushing this CWD because they know that's going to save the deer. There are going to be less hunters.

I think it's more CWD policy. [Tell me more about that.] I think the policy response in the eradication zone is destroying deer hunting as we know it. We've eroded the traditional fabric of our deer hunting seasons. Our bow hunters are dwindling by the wayside terribly. Bow hunting is probably half of what it was pre-CWD policy. I believe in 70a, which is completely within the eradication zone, during the first year of the eradication attempt the deer kill in 70a was 80 percent below the ten-year average. I believe last year it was 22 percent below the ten year average and I think what we need to do, we need to go back to the traditional season framework in order to try to repair that to get our hunters back.

Land Ownership and Personal Background

This section is intended to help understand who responded to the survey. It summarizes four land ownership attributes and seven socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Land Ownership Attributes

In general, survey respondents are full-time residents and farmers of the DEZ, they have owned land in the DEZ for about 20 years, and have farm operations of about 100 acres (Table 24).

Table 24. Land ownership attributes.

Attribute	Percent
Land owned in DEZ	
Total 5-50 acres	53
Total 51-100 acres	19
Total 101-200	14
201+ acres	14
Mean total acres	95 acres
Mean acres owned alone	80 acres
Mean acres owned with others	16 acres
Years of land ownership	
0-5 years	18
6-10 years	21
11-20 years	23
21-30 years	20
31+ years	19
Mean years	19 years
Land as residence	
Primary residence	69
Recreational, not primary residence	24
Neither primary nor recreational	8
Farm on DEZ land	
Dairy/beef	37
Cash crop	43
Deer/elk farm	0
Other farming	37

Table 24 shows that the mean amount of total acreage owned per landowner is 95; just over one-half of the landowners (53%) own 50 acres or less; respondents have owned land in the DEZ for an average of 19 years; and about two-fifths of the landowners (39%) have owned land in the DEZ for more than 20 years. In addition, nearly seven out of ten landowners (69%) report that the land they own in the DEZ is their primary residence and one-third of the landowners (32%) could be considered absentee-landowners. Almost all



landowners (96%) say at least part of the land they own in the DEZ is farmed and a minimum of 37 percent of the landowners has livestock as part of their farming operation.

Landowners' Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Landowners are primarily married men over 50 years old, they have lived in the area for more than 20 years, and they have at least some college education (Table 25).

Table 25 shows that almost all respondents (88%) are married and male. The average age of the landowner is 55 and about three in ten (29%) are over 60 years old. Almost two-thirds of the landowners (64%) have at least some college education and 43 percent have completed a bachelors degree or higher. About one-half of the landowners (49%) reside in households with annual incomes of at least \$75,000. Interestingly, only a small percentage of landowners (15%) is a member of or affiliated with at least one of the deer or land management groups presented in the questionnaire.



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Table 25. Socio-demographic characteristics of responding landowners.

Attribute	Percent
Gender	
Male	88
Female	12
Age	
21-30	1
31-40	11
41-50	27
51-60	33
61+	29
Mean age	55 years
Years living in CWD county	
0-5 years	8
6-10 years	10
11-20 years	15
21-30 years	17
31+ years	51
Mean years	34 years
Marital status	
Married/living with partner	88
Not married or not living with partner	12
Highest level of education completed	
Less than high school diploma	3
High school diploma or GED	33
2-year associates degree or trade school	21
4-year college degree (e.g., bachelors)	24
Advanced degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D.)	19
Approximate 2003 household income	
Less than \$25,000	7
\$25,000-\$49,999	19
\$50,000-\$74,999	25
\$75,000-\$99,999	20
\$100,000+	29
Membership/Affiliation	
Whitetails Unlimited	6
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association	5
Quality Deer Management Association	4
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	3
CALFARR	3
Wisconsin Deer Hunter's Association	1
CAIDS	< 1
None of the above	85